362 More than 2 persons per room 22.7 per cent 25.7 per cent

The percentage of 1-2 persons per room was lower than in any other West European country, but higher than in eastern or southern Europe.

In rural areas the housing situation improved much during the time of Finland's independence. When in 1901 the ratio of freehold dwellings was 45 per cent, by 1937 it had risen to 88 per cent. About 20 per cent of these dwellings had only one room, 35 per cent 2 rooms, 18 per cent 3 rooms, 20 per cent 4-5 rooms, and 7 per cent 6 rooms or more. The houses, as a rule, are
●372 very well built and heated. The consumption of firewood in Finland is relatively greater than in any other country in the world. In view of the fact that no other fuel is available--except for peat, which is not used at all for heating--and

372 that the farmers have adequate firewood in their own forests at their disposal, it is no wonder that this is the type of fuel used exclusively in the rural areas in Finland.

365 The electrification of rural areas was well under way before the war and has progressed ever since with the establishment of new power stations, especially in northern Finland. In 1937 nearly half of the cultivated area in Finland was electrified. In the district of Uusimaa 52.5 per cent of the rural houses had electricity, in the former district of Vii[uri 47.1 per cent, in the district of Häme 37.4 per cent, in the district of Vaasa 32.2 per cent, and in the district of Turku and Pori 41.4 per cent. The worst off were parts of eastern and north-eastern Finland, the district Mikkeli having only 7.4 per cent electrified rural area, and the district of